

REMARKS

Claims 1,2, 4-12, 14 and 15 are all the claims pending in the application. These claims stand rejected for similar reasons as in the January 5, 2004 Office Action. In addition, the Examiner has issued a new rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph stating that the phrase "the criterion of the memory block of said first and second memory buffers" is indefinite. The Examiner states that this phrase is unclear, since the specific criterion for mode selection is not specified. The Examiner questions as to how the selection of the mode depends on the memory buffers, and questions whether mode 1 (via auxiliary storage) is selected when the first block is empty and the second one is full, or vice versa, or is it automatically selected when the first block is full, etc.

The Examiner further states that although Bender and Yonei do not specifically disclose transmitting data in units of blocks, it is well known in the art to transmit data in units of blocks. The Examiner provides references disclosing use of memory blocks.

Finally, the Examiner concludes that Bender discloses that the auxiliary storage mode and the bypass mode are utilized based on the current state of any data being processed, namely whether or not the disk read buffer 136 is available to accept new data (citing col. 9 lines 49-53). As such, the Examiner alleges that if the buffer is available to accept new data, then, obviously, a block of memory in the buffer must be free. Therefore, the Examiner argues that Bender does in fact disclose that modes are selected based on the state of blocks in the buffer.

To more clearly define the modes of present invention for the Examiner's understanding, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to claim that one embodiment of the printer includes at least three modes comprising:

(i) a mode in which said received data is input to said image data generation means via said auxiliary storage; (ii) a first bypass mode in which said received data is input to said image data generation means via said second buffer memory without being input to either said first buffer memory or said auxiliary storage; and (iii) a second bypass mode in which said received data is input to said image data generation means via said first and second buffer memories without being input to said auxiliary storage.

Applicants submit that in the present invention, there is a first bypass mode in which said received data is input to said image data generation means via said second buffer memory without being input to either said first buffer memory or said auxiliary storage. In Bender, however, data is always input into the Disk Write Buffer 116 before it is transferred to the Disk 128 or to the Disk Read Buffers 136. Bender does not disclose or suggest a mode where the data is sent directly to the Disk Read Buffer 136 since, as noted, its default is always try to process the data through the Disk 128.

Further, the prior art cited by the Examiner disclose the apparatus which has a normal mode and a single bypass mode. Since the prior apparatus has only one bypass mode, even if two prior arts are combined, it is not obvious to provide two bypass modes in the apparatus. Thus, the prior art fails to disclose the apparatus which has a normal mode and two bypass modes which are selected according to a data processing state and states of the plural memory blocks.

With respect to claims 5 and 10, the Examiner considers that the passage of Bender, column 9, line 49 to 53, "In situations where the Disk Read Buffer 136 and the Datastream Manager 146 are available to accept new data." discloses the claimed feature. Applicants respectfully disagree. Bender merely describes that the Disk Read Buffer and the Datastream Manager are available and there is no specific disclosure regarding conditions for "available". Therefore, the Examiner cannot conclude that Bender discloses "no data being processed is stored in said auxiliary storage."

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

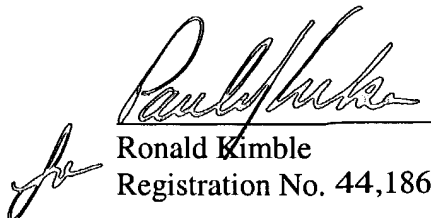
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

 Reg. No. 44,186
Ronald Kimble
Registration No. 44,186

Date: November 15, 2004